

NOTARIS SCIRPI (F.) (COL.: CURCULIONIDAE) ⁷³
IN CUMBRIA WITH NOTES ON THREE OTHER
SPECIES OF THE GENUS

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On October 21st 1979 I visited Rainsbarrow Wood (NGR SD19/93) near the village of Ulpha in South Cumbria and collected samples of leaf litter and moss in the hope of finding *Acalles ptinoides* (Marsham). These samples were taken home and were later hand sorted and one adult *Notaris scirpi* (Fabricius) was found. The specimen was in good condition and well marked and may have been a newly emerged adult. In personal communication from Dr. M. G. Morris this is a new record for Cumbria and vice county 70 Cumberland. Rainsbarrow wood is composed mainly of sessile oak with silver birch, mountain ash, hazel and a few scattered pines. It is situated on the side of a steep and rocky limestone ridge below Pike Fell and extends from 125 metres to about 218 metres on the fell side. The wood is part of an extensive area of mixed woodland in the picturesque Ulpha Park valley through which the River Duddon flows south to the estuary above Foxfield. Among other weevils extracted from the leaf litter was one *Trachodes hispidus* (Linnaeus), six *Acalles ptinoides* (Marsham) and a number of *Coeliodes dryados* (Gmelin in Linnaeus). *N. scirpi* appears to be locally distributed in England and Fowler (1891, *Coleoptera of the British Islands*, 5 : 269) records it from Kent, East Sussex, West Sussex, Hampshire, Dorset, Worcestershire and Lancashire and it was recorded from Ireland by Johnson, W. F. and Halbert, J. N. (1902: A list of the beetles of Ireland. *Proc. R. Ir. Acad.* (ser. 3), 6 : 804). It appears to be absent from Scotland. The weevil is associated with various species of Typhaceae and Cyperaceae and Hoffmann, A (1954, *Fauna de France*, 62, *Coleopteres, Curculionides*, 3: 1434) gives *Carex acutiformis* Ehrhart as the host plant in France and he states that the larvae develop in the roots. Fowler (*loc. cit.*) notes that the weevil can be found overwintering in the stems of *Typha latifolia* Linnaeus, and *N. scirpi* was also found in the stems of this plant at Higham saltings, Kent in May, (1960-1961): *Proc. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.*: 91). When kept alive in captivity for a short time at home I observed *N. scirpi* to have an interesting feining posture. When disturbed the weevil crossed the prothoracic legs over the reflexed rostrum and the tarsal claws were locked tightly together and held just below the eyes. The mesothoracic and metathoracic legs were held against the body in a normal feining position. All the four British species of *Notaris* Germar have now been recorded from Cumbria and vice county 70 Cumberland.

Notaris acridulus (Linnaeus) appears to be the most common and widespread species and I have taken specimens mainly by sweeping riverside vegetation and general herbage in damp meadows. My localities are, Hensingham, NX98/17,6.vi.69, Beckermert,

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NY01/04, Seascale, NY03/03, 21.v.77, Hallsenna Moor, NY06/00, 24.viii.79, Holmrook, NY08/00, 2.vii.78, Frizington, NY02/17, 27.v.73, Loweswater, NY11/22, 3.vi.78, Ravenglass, SD07/97, 25.vi.78, Drigg, SD06/98, 30.iv.77, Silecroft, SD13/81, 6.vi.78, Shaw Moss, SD18/85, 8.vii.78, Fellgate Gill, Muncaster, SD11/97, 13.v.78. The local specimens of *N. acridulus* in the F. H. Day collection in Tullie House, Museum, Carlisle are from Orton and Salkeld.

N. aethiops (Fabricius). This distinct rare Northern species was first recorded from the county by Britten (1907, *Ent. Rec.*, 19 : 115), who took specimens in flood refuse at Borrowdale and this record is also given in Fowler & Donisthorpe (1913, *Coleoptera of the British Islands*, 6 : 310) where this locality has been misspelt. One specimen in the Day collection is from Borrowdale and bears the data 26, vi.37, F.H.D. In an interesting paper by Pearson, (1962, *J. Ecology*, 31: 129-150) the remains of *N. aethiops* were found along with certain other species of Curculionidae in a late-glacial deposit at St. Bees.

N. bimaculatus Fabricius. I have found this species at only two sites in West Cumbria and specimens have usually been taken in association with species of *Typha* and *Phragmites* growing around the edge of the saltmarsh areas of the River Irt and Esk estuaries near Ravenglass, SD06/97 and SD10/95. I also took two specimens from a species of *Carex* growing on the edge of mud flats near to the railway line south of Kirby in Furness station, SD22/81. Local specimens in the Day collection are from Burgh and Silloth (NY15 and NY35 respectively).

From a review of the literature on the biology and ecology of *Notaris* I have been able to draw up preliminary lists of the host plants and larval feeding sites for the four British species, and this information is summarised in table 1. I was unable to find any published details on the early stages of *N. aethiops*.

Table 1. Hostplants and larval feeding sites of *Notaris*.

Species	Hostplant	Family	Larval feeding site
<i>acridulus</i>	<i>Glyceria aquatica</i>	Gramineae	roots and stems
<i>aethiops</i>	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Sparganiaceae	?
<i>bimaculatus</i>	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Gramineae	stems
	<i>Phragmites communis</i>	Gramineae	stems
	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Typhaceae	stems
<i>scirpi</i>	<i>Carex acutiformis</i>	Cyperaceae	roots
	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Typhaceae	roots

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Dr. M. G. Morris for information concerning the vice county distribution of *N. scirpi*. I also thank Mr. D. J. Clarke, curator, Tullie House, Museum, Carlisle for allowing me to examine specimens in the F. H. Day collection.